

# SOME ADDITIONS TO THE FAUNA OF IRAQ.

BY

WALTER P. KENNEDY.

(From the Royal College of Medicine, Baghdad, Iraq).

Between 1920 and 1922 a series of papers were published in this *Journal* on the fauna of Iraq and Persia. Excellent as this work was, it was not exhaustive, and some lacunae remained. So when in the course of certain other investigations a rather heterogeneous collection of specimens was gathered, it was thought that the interesting nature of the region justified publishing some notes, even though the information was only scanty. Some further indications might at least be given for other workers in the future.

## MOLLUSCA

### DIOTOCARDIA.

*Neritina macrii* Recluz. var. *minor*.

From Kani Tili in Kurdistan, 37° 11"N. 43° 38"E.

### MONOTOCARDIA.

*Melanopsis nodosa*, Fer.

Several localities in immediate neighbourhood of Baghdad.

## BASOMMATOPHORA.

*Limnaea tenera euphratica*, Mousson.

Near Baghdad.

*Bulinus truncatus*, Aud.

Khan beni Saad, a village about 20 miles from Baghdad, incidentally heavily infected with Schistosomiasis.

## STYLOMMATOPHORA.

*Xerophila vestalis*, Parreys.

Haruna, 36° 57"N. 44° 25"E.

*Pomatia salomonica*, Naegele.

Renji Brakha, 37° 06"N. 43° 54"E.

## CARDIACEA.

*Cardium edule*.

Lake near Kerbala.

Further notes on molluscs in Iraq will be found in a paper by Mills, MacHattie and Chadwick.

## ARTHROPODA

### MYRIAPODA.

*Scolopendra morsitans*.

Baquaba and Nasiriyah. Cases of poisoning are reported from this type.

### SCORPIONIDEA.

*Buthus (Prionurus) crassicauda*, Olivier.

*Buthus australis*, Hempr. & Ehr.

*Buthus eupeus*, C. L. Koch.

*Hemiscorpion lepturus*, Peters.

*B. crassicauda* and *B. cupeus* are probably the commonest species of scorpions in Western Asia. They have been recorded from Afghanistan, Iran, Armenia, Syria and Arabia. *B. australis* was taken at Mandali where they are much feared as they are very toxic. *Hemiscorpion* (or *Hemiscorpius*) *lepturus* has been recorded much less frequently, and only from Baghdad and the southern parts of Iraq. I have obtained specimens from Mandali, and from Rowanduz and Sulimania in Kurdistan. Closely allied forms from Aden and Sokotra (Pocock, 1899), Muscat (Kraepelin, 1900) and E. Iran (Birula, 1903) have been described as separate species, but it seems likely that some or all of these are co-specific with *H. lepturus* of Peters. It is not a specially dangerous type. Death from scorpion stings are not unknown in Iraq, the victims being children or debilitated adults. Dohuk and Murgash, N. of Mosul; Sulimania in Kurdistan; and Mandali in Diala Liwa have evil reputations in respect of scorpions.

## SOLPUGIDÆ.

*Galeodellus* (? species).

*Galeodes* ? *bacilifer*. Both from Asher near Basrah.

*Galeodes arabs*.

Specimens from Basrah, Nasiriyah, Baghdad, Baquaba in Iraq, and Isfahan in Iran. They are said to be venomous, and in Basrah and Isfahan at least, are feared. My bearer has frequently handled them freely and they have made no attempt to bite.

## PISCES

## SELACHII.

*Carcharias lamia*, Risso.

This shark was taken in a fisherman's net just above Baghdad. Sharks are not frequent visitors so high up the Tigris as Baghdad, but isolated ones are heard of every year. In the river at Basrah they are more common.

*Myliobatis aquila*, L.

From the mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab. These eagle rays attain a very large size in the Persian Gulf.

## TELEOSTII.

*Barbus luteus*, Heckel.

From Tigris about Baghdad, and also in small unnamed streams in Kurdistan.

*Barbus kersin*, Heckel.

Tigris, above Baghdad.

*Barbus subquincunciatus*, Günth.

Small stream at Rayy, near Teheran.

*Discognathus rufus*, Heckel.

Tigris at Baghdad.

*Leuciscus* (? species).

Tigris at Baghdad.

*Girardinus faeciloides*.

Exact provenance of this specimen unknown, but probably taken in the vicinity of Baghdad.

*Aspius vorax*, Heckel.

Tigris at Baghdad.

*Alburnus mossulensis*, Heckel.

Unnamed stream in E. Kurdistan.

*Alburnus* (? species).

Tigris at Baghdad.

*Alburnoides* (? *bipunctatus*, Bl.).

Small stream at Rayy, near Teheran.

*Mugil abu*, Heckel.

Tigris at Amara and Baghdad.

*Mugil dussumieri*, Cuv. & Val.

Tigris at Amara and Baghdad.

*Belone* (? species).

Mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab near Fao.

*Sparus berda*, Forsk.

Tigris at Baghdad.

*Mastacembelus* (? species).

Tigris at Baghdad.

This list of fishes covers a small part of the total number, and further work is planned in this direction. It appears probable that there are two or three new species in the mullets, genus *Mugil*, and also a very great extension of range in one of the species which has hardly been recognised since the time of Forskal. There has been so little work done on the fish of this region that considerable difficulty is found in identifying the specimens. In addition to the above, representatives of *Hilsa*, and *Mystus* from Baghdad, and two species of *Varicorhinus* from Teheran and Kurdistan respectively have been tentatively identified.

## AMPHIBIA

### SALAMANDRIDÆ.

*Triturus vittatus*.

Newts are rare in Iraq. This is the only example which has been found so far as I can trace, and it only occurs in one spot, a spring, Kuni Sheikh Omar near Berisa village in Kurdistan, 36° 56' N. 44° 17' E. I am indebted to Dr. Macfadyen for this observation.

### BUFONIDÆ.

*Bufo viridis*.

Widely spread through Iraq.

### HYLIDÆ.

*Hyla arborea savignyi*.

Baghdad and Amara.

### RANINÆ.

*Rana ridibunda*.

Widely spread through Iraq.

*Rana ridibunda susana*.

N.W. Kurdistan.

*Rana esculenta*.

Baghdad.

*Bufo viridis* is distributed from the Pyrenees to the Thibetan Himalayas, and *Rana ridibunda* from Spain to Iran, and south to Egypt. Both species are probably divisible into a number of local races, especially in the eastern part of their range, but so little is known of them in these regions that it is difficult to assign them subspecific names.

## REPTILIA

### GECKONIDÆ.

*Phyllodactylus elisae*, Werner.

Three specimens of this rare gecko were reported by Procter in 1921 from the Persian frontier. The present example was found near Table Mountain near Baquba. It was thickly speckled with dark brown,

## AGAMIDÆ.

*Agama persica*, Blanf.

From Nasiriyah, being the most southern record of this form. The specimen shows some differences from the typical Persian ones, but whether this indicates a subspecies difference it is not possible to determine from one specimen.

*Agama agilis*, Oliv.

From the Shia Khuh in the Salt Desert to the S.S.E. of Teheran, Iran.

*Agama caucasica*, Eichw.

Taken about 40 miles W. of Teheran.

*Phrynocephalus scutellatus*, Aud. (*oliveri*, Gray).

From the Shia Khuh, and also near Isfahan, Iran. At the latter a road running over a barren area had rocks and gravel on one side, and softer sandy soil on the other. *Phrynocephalus* was plentiful on the rocky side, but none were seen on the sandy side, where however, there were large numbers of *Mabuia septemtaeniata* (Fellow's skink). Neither type trespassed on the domain of the other, though separated only by a narrow road.

*Uromastix loricatus*, Blanf.

Porter, 1921, gives one specimen from Ruz as a new record for the country. The present specimen was brought to me by an Arab from a point he judged about 50 miles W. of Baghdad.

## LACERTIDÆ.

*Acanthodactylus fraseri*, Boulenger.

This is, so far as I can discover, only the third known example of this species, described by Boulenger in this *Journal*, 1918. It was found at Nasiriyah.

*Eremias brevirostris*, Blanf.

Also from Nasiriyah, this specimen tends to show a link with *E. adramitana*.

*Apathya (Latastia) cappadocica umericana*, Lantz & Suchow.

Two specimens one from the Jebel Hamrin, the other from the Rowanduz road in Kurdistan.

## AMPHISBAENIDÆ.

*Pachycalamus zarudyni*, Nik.

This lizard was recorded by Boulenger in 1920, and it is noted again here on account of its distribution, and because it is uncommon. The specimen came from Abatia in the Southern Desert, 29° 33'N. 44° 53'E. So far as is known, no examples have been encountered near Baghdad or further north.

## OPHIDIA

## COLUBRIDÆ.

*Lytorhynchus diadema*, Dum & Bibr.

The Diademed Sand Snake is not a common snake in Iraq according to Corkill, who records three specimens from Shaiba, Falliyah, and Rutba. The present specimen was taken at Baba Gurgur, Kirkuk, by Mr. F. R. S. Henson, and thus extends the distribution of the species in this country.

*Hydrophis lapemidooides*, Gray.

From Bahrein Island in the Persian Gulf, and according to Malcolm Smith a rare species.

*Lapemis curtus*, Shaw.

Also from Bahrein Island. Smith records a specimen from Muscat, but I can find no reference to the occurrence of the type at the western end of the Gulf.

*Microcephalophis gracilis*, Shaw.

Brought up in a dredger bucket at Fao, mouth of the Shatt-el-arab.

## CHELONIA

## TESTUDINÆ.

*Clemmys caspica*.

The common tortoise of Iraq: several specimens taken from all over the country.

## TRIONYCHODEA.

*Trionyx euphraticus*.

Nasiriyah and the Tigris above Baghdad, the latter specimen measures 47 cms. in length, and I have seen some considerably larger. This mud tortoise has very powerful jaws, and is reputed to inflict destructive bites on men wading or swimming.

Some of these specimens were collected while I accompanied Mr. Henry Field during part of an expedition to the Near East organised by the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Several types were found by Dr. Macfadyen. Many of the identifications were made by the authorities at the British Museum. To all of these thanks are due. The paper is published by permission of the Director General of Health, Baghdad.

## REFERENCES.

- Boulenger, G. A.—'Description of a new lizard of the genus *Acanthodactylus* from Mesopotamia'. *J.B.N.H.S.*, xxv, 373 (1918).  
 Boulenger, G. A.—'A list of lizards from Mesopotamia'. *J.B.N.H.S.*, xxvii (1920).  
 Corkill, N. L.—'Snakes and snake-bite in Iraq'. London (1932).  
 Mills, E. A., MacHattie, C. and Chadwick, C. R.—'*Schistosoma haematobium* and its life cycle in Iraq'. *Trans. Roy. Soc. Trop. Med.*, xxx, 317 (1936).  
 Porter, Joan B.—'Further lizards and snakes from Persia and Mesopotamia'. *J.B.N.H.S.*, xxviii (1921).  
 Smith, Malcolm.—'Monograph of the sea-snakes'. Brit. Museum. (1926).